

BORDER EAGLE

Laughlin Air Force Base ♦ Texas

54th Year ♦ No.14 ♦ April 14, 2006

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Laboratory Appreciation Week coming up later this month

14



86th Flying Training Squadron bumps 87th FTS in intramural volleyball



Mission Capable Rates

T-1
91.8%

T-6
90.8%

T-38
89.2%

AEF Stats

28 Deployed

4 Back in 30 days

5 Leaving in 30 days

Team XL's last

DUI

April 8, 2006

It's a crime!



Photo by Senior Airman Austin M. May

Keeping it brief

Second Lts. Tiago Andrade from the Portuguese air force and Sarah Kugele stop at the operations desk at the 87th Flying Training Squadron to receive solo

and step briefings from Maj. Alan Thode, 87th FTS assistant director of operations. Lieutenants Andrade and Kugele are members of Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 06-13.

Air Force refines WAPS test program

Beginning with the chief master sergeant promotion testing cycle in September, Airmen will use multiple-use test booklets for promotion testing and be prohibited from marking in booklets.

The change is expected to

improve test security and administrative procedures for the Promotion Fitness Examination and the United States Air Force Supervisory Examination.

Since the number of test booklets in the field will be reduced from about 210,000 to

7,000 the opportunity for unauthorized disclosure or loss is greatly diminished. Immediate benefits will be reduced costs and elimination of the need to shred test booklets after each testing session.

The Weighted Airman

Promotion System testing program provides enlisted Airmen a fair and secure opportunity to compete for their next stripe, according to officials at the Air Force Personnel Center.

(Air Force Personnel Center News Service)

What it means to call America home



Commander's Corner

By Lt. Col. Dan Gernert
85th Flying Training Squadron
commander

Today we find ourselves deeply rooted in a culture that seems to think very little of the morals and values many of us hold dear.

I remember watching and listening to my father as I grew up, and I now realize what a profound impact he had on my life. He set an example by the way he led his life. He was a man who would go out of his way to do the right thing for those around him, no matter what others thought.

The stories he and his brothers often told recounted time and time again how people went to extraordinary measures to help each other as they grew up at the end of the great depression. These stories and other experiences of growing up in rural America with conservative values left me with an incredible sense that I owed a great debt to the countless men and women who sacrificed everything in order to keep this nation free.

Maybe, just maybe, I can put some of those deeply held beliefs into words for you

today.

I have the honor of being the master of ceremonies for the graduation of each class that passes through my squadron. I am always touched at these ceremonies by the vivid pictures and video presentations that make up the evening's entertainment. The images of men and women from Laughlin out fighting the war on terrorism make me realize just how lucky we are to live in this nation. These images evoke memories from my own experience in combat as well as countless TV images of wars in the past where good men have given their all in the defense of our nation.

What touches me most about these images is that some of the most incredible American patriots imaginable are serving right next to us today.

This is what has made my time in the Air Force worth every minute.

I stand in awe of the men and women I serve with every day, and am always humbled by the thought I am counted as one of their number. I can't imagine a more important message to drive home to these newest Airmen (graduating pilots) that will be out fighting the war in the very near future.

I remember watching parades when I was young and noting how the veterans in the crowd very often had a tear rolling down their cheek as they watched the flag pass. I remember thinking it rather odd that men who had suffered

the rigors of combat would be so emotional about a simple old flag. By the time I was in high school, I finally had a basic notion of why the flag generated this response, but it was not until I had served and seen friends die that it truly hit home with a meaning that simply cannot be expressed, it must be experienced.

I am now the one who has a tear roll down my cheek as I hear our National Anthem and see

our flag flown proudly. I have joined the ranks of those who know exactly what it means when we say "freedom isn't free."

We know the price that must be paid if we are to ensure our children live in a country that holds the same promise as when we grew up.

In the time I have served, I have traveled a great deal and have seen how a broad spectrum of people in this world live. Many around the world work very hard every day just to earn a simple meager living.

This is why immigrants to our shore are often very successful, because they are not afraid of hard work and dedication to a goal.

Many Americans share this same drive and determination and do fantastic things. Others, and too many others in my opinion, do not realize the opportunity they have been given and instead expect life to hand them everything they ask for. We must cultivate a proper appreciation for how lucky we are to be citizens of this great nation.

This is a lesson our nation has learned over and over, so let us not wait until the next national emergency to rekindle a sense of what it means to enjoy the privilege of calling the United States of America our home.

I hope a few of the thoughts I have shared ring true with each of you. Words fail to convey how deeply I love this country. My past actions indicate I count myself among those willing to lay down their lives in her defense. My words are of praise for those who seek to preserve the highest ideals man has ever imagined. My desire is that every man, woman and child who sets foot in America will come to know why the late President Ronald Reagan described this nation as "A shining city on a hill." It is only by the actions of those willing to sacrifice everything that we will achieve the goal of living a truly worthwhile life.

May God bless America, truly the land of the free and home of the brave!

BORDER EAGLE

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Deadlines

News for the Border Eagle should be submitted to the 47th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 338, Laughlin AFB, TX, 298-5262.

Copy deadline is close of business each Thursday the week prior to publication.

Submissions can be e-mailed to: olufemi.owolabi@laughlin.af.mil or bordereagle@laughlin.af.mil.

Advertising

Advertising should be submitted to the Del Rio News-Herald by 4 p.m. each Friday at 2205 Bedell, Del Rio, TX, 774-4611.



Actionline

Col. Tod Wolters
47th Flying Training
Wing commander



Call 298-5351 or email
actionline@laughlin.af.mil

One way to work through problems that haven't been solved through normal channels is the Commander's Actionline.

Before you call in or e-mail an Actionline, please try to work out the problem through the normal chain of command or directly with the base agency involved.

When calling or e-mailing the Actionline, please keep messages brief and remember to include your name and phone number so you are assured of a timely personal reply. Contact information is also useful when additional information is needed to pursue your inquiry.

We will make every attempt to ensure confidentiality when appropriate.

If your question relates to the general interest of the people of Laughlin, the question and answer may also be printed in the Border Eagle.

Thanks for your cooperation, and I look forward to reading some quality ideas and suggestions.

Below are some useful telephone numbers that may be helpful when working your issue with a base agency.

AAFES	298-3176
Finance	298-5204
Civil Engineer	298-5252
Civilian Personnel	298-5299
Clinic	298-6311
Commissary	298-5815
Dormitory manager	298-5213
EEO	298-5879
FWA hotline	298-4170
Housing	298-5904
Information line	298-5201
Legal	298-5172
MEO	298-5400
Military Personnel	298-5073
Public Affairs	298-5988
Security Forces	298-5900
Services	298-5810

SECAF/CSAF send letter to Airmen

April is National Sexual Assault Awareness Month

By Michael W. Wynne
Secretary of the Air Force
Gen. T. Michael Moseley
Air Force Chief of Staff

To the Airmen of the United States Air Force,

Sexual Assault Awareness Month is observed nationally in April 2006 with April 6th highlighted as "The Day to End Sexual Violence." Your Air Force leadership has been aggressively addressing this national problem.

We will continue to dedicate ourselves to preventing it, and if it occurs, responding deliberately to sexual assault within the Air Force.

Sexual assault is a crime and will be treated as such in our Air Force. Every single Airman is important to the combat capability of our United States Air Force. We value each and every member of our team. Our Core Values are built on themes of respect and mutual dependence. But with

sexual assault, everybody loses—the victim, the perpetrator, the entire squadron. It is up to all Airmen to help prevent this heinous crime.

We have made significant strides in our prevention and response efforts over the past year with mandatory awareness training to over 360,000 Airmen, worldwide. Sexual Assault Response Coordinators and Victim Advocates have been trained and are actively working to educate us on how to prevent this crime, while providing dedicated and caring assistance to its victims. We've implemented a restricted reporting option, which allows Air Force military members who have been sexually assaulted to confidentially receive medical treatment and support without automatically triggering a criminal investigation. Similarly, victims who would like for the case to be investigated can make an

immediate unrestricted report, and still receive the support of the sexual assault prevention and response team.

Remember, integrity involves responsibility, accountability and self-respect. Airmen with integrity are dependable and consistent...they behave in a manner that brings credit to themselves, their unit, and the Air Force. Airmen who value their teammates and our Air Force more than their narrow self-interests display fundamental respect for others as well as discipline and self control. Airmen who are committed to excellence apply that standard to their personal lives, community involvement and operational initiatives.

Let us continue our rise to that higher plane where every Airman is treated with respect and protected from harm. Our mission and our Core Values demand nothing less.

Sexual assault can happen to anyone at any time

By Laura McGowan
Aeronautical Systems Center
public affairs

Air Force officials are aggressively seeking to educate Airmen about sexual assault prevention and the barriers that prevent victims from reporting the crime.

Here are some common-sense safety practices that can help military members reduce the possibility of becoming victims of sexual assault:

— If you consume alcohol, do so in moderation.

Studies indicate that a high percentage of all sexual assaults in the U.S. involve the use of alcohol by the offender, the victim or both.

— Do not leave your beverage unattended or accept a drink from an open container.

— When you date someone, communicate clearly with that person to ensure he or she

knows your limits from the beginning. Both verbal and nonverbal (body language) communication can be used to ensure the message is understood.

— If you go on a date with someone you do not know very well, tell a close friend about your plans.

— You have the right to say "No" even if you say yes but change your mind, have had sex with this partner before, have been kissing or "making out," or are wearing "provocative" clothing.

— Always have extra money to get home or have a plan for someone you can call if you need help.

— If you feel uncomfortable, scared or pressured, act quickly to end the situation. Say, "Stop it" and leave or call for help.

— When you go to a party, go with a group of friends. Arrive together, watch out for each other and leave together.

— Be aware of your surroundings

at all times.

— Do not allow yourself to be isolated with a person you do not know or trust.

— Plan your outings and avoid getting into a bad situation.

— Walk only in well-lit areas after dark.

— Keep the doors to homes, barracks and cars locked.

— Know where a phone is located.

Don't become a target for a sexual predator seeking the opportunity to take advantage.

"Commanders are the key to sexual assault prevention and response," said Brig. Gen. K. C. McClain, Joint Task Force Sexual Assault Prevention and Response commander.

"Everyone from our most junior member to our most senior member has a role in prevention and response. It's not a commander's program; it's everyone's responsibility."

CALL
BAADD?
GOOD CALL.
298-HOME
(4663)

FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS

10 P.M. TO 3 A.M.

FREE TO ALL BASE PERSONNEL

Air Force announces new call-center locations

WASHINGTON - Air Force officials announced Monday the proposed sites for the Air Force Financial Services Center (AFFSC) and the Air Force Claims Service Center (AFCSC).

These choices resulted from analyzing several competing locations lasting more than eight months, and involved support and coordination from many communities for which the Air Force is very thankful. The merits were considered and the results are as follows.

The preferred location for the AFFSC is Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D., while the preferred location for the AFCSC will be in the Dayton, Ohio, area. The AFFSC is scheduled for activation in fiscal year '08, and the AFCSC is scheduled to open in FY07.

Final location decisions for both call centers is contingent upon completion of appropriate National Environmental Policy Act analysis, and meeting labor obligations.

"The AFFSC and the AFCSC are just two examples of our journey down a road toward self-improvement," said Michael W. Wynne, Secretary of the Air Force.

Both Centers are examples of the Air Force's Smart Operations 21 concept, which seeks to improve processes across the Air Force and create a more efficient, effects-driven organization.

At initial operational capability, the

opening of the AFFSC will improve processing efficiency; the change will initially be largely transparent to most customers. Base finance offices will have a reduced presence but will remain open to assist Airmen with those financial services that require personal interaction. However, the actual processing of forms will take place at the AFFSC.

At full operational capability, the plan is to consolidate financial services by opening a central processing center and a 24 hour contact (call) center with up to 775 civilian and military personnel, performing financial service transactions and responding to customer inquiries. As the AFFSC matures, the integration of new AF systems will enable most financial services, from travel vouchers to all allotments, to be handled via the web.

"This new center will save the Air Force more than \$200 million dollars in the first ten years after the center opens," said Mr. John G. Vonglis, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force (Financial Management). "Additionally, our Airmen will see faster processing of their transactions and quicker responses to their financial inquiries through the use of web-based services."

The AFCSC will provide one-stop service for all personal property claims normally filed at the base level, including claims for household goods damaged

during change of station moves. With manning of approximately 100 personnel, the AFCSC will provide convenient and efficient service whenever and wherever needed by Airmen who experience losses due to military service. Consolidation will ensure greater consistency in claim evaluation, maximize compensation to Airmen for their losses, and enhance the Air Force's ability to recover funds from responsible carriers for damage to household goods.

"While we can't eliminate all the risks to personal property that come with serving in the Air Force, we can, and will, make certain the claims process compensates our Airmen fairly and swiftly," stated Secretary Wynne. "The AFCSC will do all that, while saving over \$60 million over the next ten years."

When the AFCSC is fully operational in 2008, claimants will be able to submit claims on-line, with dedicated claims professionals available for telephone assistance via the Center's toll-free or DSN numbers. Web-based claims submissions will speed the evaluation process and provide payments to claimants more quickly. During the transition to the improved system, wing legal offices will continue to provide personal claims assistance and ensure no loss of service to our Airmen!

(Courtesy Air Force Print News)

'Virtual Commissary' expands product selection

FORT LEE, Va.— The future is now at the Defense Commissary Agency. It's not the "final frontier" by a long shot, but DeCA's Virtual Commissary has been expanded to include 37 new item selections, including snack packs and special occasion baskets. This brings the total number of gift baskets on Virtual Commissary to 44 with more on the way.

"We began Virtual Commissary just before the holidays with seven gift baskets," said Patrick Nixon, chief executive officer and acting director of DeCA. "The customer reception was promising and now we're pleased to offer many more items, all at great prices."

Authorized commissary shoppers in the United States and military shoppers overseas can check it out at <http://www.commissaries.com>. Customers can check for availability of delivery

to APO and FPO addresses as well as more information on what's in the gift baskets by clicking on the image.

To access the extended commissary, shoppers must pass through a secure portal under the shopping link at the Web site. Access is dependent on whether the customer is entered in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System, known as DEERS.

Civilians stationed overseas who are authorized to shop at commissaries may not be able to access Virtual Commissary until programming changes are made by the Defense Manpower Data Center, DeCA officials said. Those upgrades are targeted for completion this year.

Virtual Commissary customers can make selections and fill in their payment and shipping information in one secure step. They are then transferred to the manufacturer's site where they can get

total cost for the product (including shipping) and finalize their purchase.

Items offered on Virtual Commissary are well below average retail prices found at other online services. Charges will vary depending on the item size or weight, method of shipping, location and speed of delivery. Payment can be made with any credit card accepted in real commissaries. Customer information is not archived by DeCA.

Eventually, Virtual Commissary will offer more gift items. Long-range plans include online shopping for hundreds of items routinely found in commissaries. That should be helpful for deployed service members, military retirees and Guard and Reserve families living far from installations.

*(Courtesy
Defense Commissary
Agency News release)*

Newslines

Special VA notice

An organization, called Veterans Affairs Services, is providing benefit and general information on the VA and gathering personal information on veterans. VAS may be gaining access to military personnel through their close resemblance to the VA name and seal.

VA legal counsel has requested widest dissemination and is informing members that this organization is not affiliated with VA in any way.

If you have information concerning a VAS employee assisting veterans in the preparation and presentation of claims for benefits, contact Michael Daugherty, staff attorney for the Department of Veterans Affairs at MichaelDaugherty2@va.gov.

Commissary open Sunday

The commissary will be open from 10 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Easter Sunday.

Quarterly awards lunch

The wing's first Quarter 2006 Awards Lunch is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. April 26 at Club XL. Sign up with your unit prorata representative.

Nominee should R.S.V.P. with Staff Sgt. Sanita Kazmirski at 298-4762.

Commanders and distinguished visitors should R.S.V.P. with wing protocol at 298-4709.

Volunteers ice cream social

Laughlin volunteers will be saluted for their efforts and their commitment to serve in an Ice Cream Social at the 47th Mission Support Squadron patio area, Building 246 Wednesday from 1:30 to 3 p.m.

Commanders, supervisors and family members are encouraged to attend the event. All volunteers will receive a certificate of appreciation and an invitation to the Ice Cream Social.

For details, call 298-4362.

Overseas returnee, CONUS mandatory movers' assignment listing available

The Enlisted Quarterly Assignment Listing for Airmen returning from overseas and continental United States mandatory movers from August through October was posted Tuesday.

Individuals need to work through their military personnel flights or their commander's support staff to update their preferences. Deployed personnel must work with their personnel support for contingency operations representative to update assignment preferences.

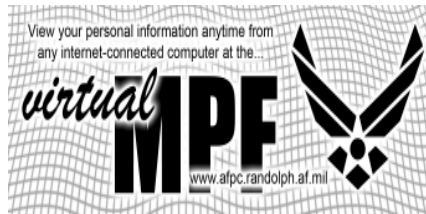
Assignment preferences must be updated by April 27. If selected, Airmen will be notified no later than May 15, according to Air Force Personnel Center officials here.

EQUAL advertises upcoming assignment requirements by Air Force specialty code and

rank. Airmen should review, prioritize and update their assignment preferences based on the EQUAL list.

Airmen can view the list via the Assignment Management System on the AFPC secure site at <https://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/afpcsecure/Default.asp> or at local MPFs.

(Courtesy Air Force Personnel Center)



3X5.15



Photo by Senior Airman Austin M. May

Laboratory test..

Airman First Class Robert Arrington, 47th Medical Support Squadron's clinical laboratory technician, examines a blood sample at the laboratory here Wednesday. The base laboratory has received three consecutive bi-annual zero deficiency inspections conducted by the College of American Pathologists. Clinical lab technicians can use the blood sample to perform a blood gas test, which tests the amount of oxygen in the blood and the pH level. April 23 to 29 is the Laboratory Appreciation Week.

Miss an issue of The
BORDER EAGLE?

Back-issues are available online at
<http://www.laughlin.af.mil/BorderEagle/BorderEagle.htm>

Missile defense site named after President Reagan

By Maj. Todd Fleming
30th Space Wing public affairs

VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. — The missile defense site here took on a new name Monday. The Ronald W. Reagan Missile Defense Site honors the 40th president of the United States who was a champion of the need for missile defense.

Attendees at the ceremony included former First Lady Nancy Reagan; Deputy Secretary of Defense Gordon England; Alaska Sen. Ted Stevens; former California Gov. Pete Wilson; Lt. Gen. Frank G. Klotz, vice commander of Air Force Space Command; and Lt. Gen. Henry A. "Trey" Obering III, director of the Missile Defense Agency.

"President Reagan simply would not accept U.S. vulnerability to nuclear or ballistic missile attack," General Obering said. "And so he called upon the scientific community in our country, those who gave us nuclear weapons, to turn their great talents now to the cause of mankind and world peace, to give us the means of rendering these nuclear

weapons impotent and obsolete."

A recurring theme through all the speeches was the lasting legacy of President Reagan to our national defense.

"We are here today to celebrate the remarkable achievement of Ronald Reagan who will be remembered and revered for many things. But if you (could) ask him, I think he would tell you his greatest achievement was to safeguard the freedom and safeguard the people of the United States," Senator Stevens said.

General Klotz spoke of the contributions of the Air Force Space Command team as an integral part of the nation's missile defense. He mentioned several capabilities that support missile defense, including uninterrupted space-based early warning, launch ranges, communications, navigation and timing capabilities.

"Those of us who have spent time in the intercontinental ballistic missile business hold President Reagan in especially high regard," General Klotz said. "His leadership at the height of the Cold War was



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Scott Seyer

Lt. Gen. Frank G. Klotz addresses the more than 500 military and civilians attending the Ronald W. Reagan Missile Defense Site dedication ceremony at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif., Monday. General Klotz is vice commander of Air Force Space Command.



Former First Lady Nancy Reagan is escorted by Lt. Gen. Frank G. Klotz and Alaska Sen. Ted Stevens at the Ronald W. Reagan Missile Defense Site dedication ceremony Monday.

the turning point toward achieving victory in that titanic struggle for peace and freedom. President Reagan was the driving force behind the deployment of the Peacekeeper missile in the 1980s ... The mission of the Peacekeeper and the vision of President Reagan (were) achieved without ever firing a shot in anger."

The Ronald W. Reagan Missile Defense Site includes four silos. Two house interceptor missiles that, when activated, are part of the overall ballistic missile defense system. The two other silos will be used for operationally realistic testing, but can also hold operational interceptors if required.

The current missile defense system also includes early warning satellites, powerful ground- and sea-based radars and an integrated command, control and battle management element.

"Today, our nation has a limited, but real defensive capability against short, medium and long-range bal-

listic missiles," General Obering said. "That reality is borne out by the long-term interceptors in the silos here and in Alaska, the Aegis ships with their sea-based interceptors, the powerful radars which we have brought online, and the professionally trained and certified crews manning the command and control consoles in Alaska, Hawaii, Colorado and Nebraska."

The ceremony ended with a broadcast of President Reagan's own words from a speech given March 23, 1983. The words also appear on the plaque under a bust of the president that was unveiled during the ceremony.

"Wouldn't it be better to save lives than avenge them?" the president asked. "Are we not capable of demonstrating our peaceful intentions by applying all of our abilities and our ingenuity to achieving a truly lasting stability? I think we are indeed. Indeed, we must."

Tracking status of requests submitted to contact center now available via 'My Stuff'

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE — The new software used on the Air Force Personnel Center public Web site allows Airmen to track the status of requests and correspondence sent to the Air Force Contact Center via the 'My Stuff' tab.

Airmen need a separate user identification and password to access My Stuff because it is inherent in the new software and cannot be accessed at this time via the reduced sign-on capability used by the Air Force Portal and the AFPC Secure site.

The system automatically created a generic user ID and password for Airmen who previously corresponded with the contact center. Those members should have received an e-mail from contact.center@randolph.af.mil requiring them to personalize and secure their account by establishing a unique password.

Members who did not receive this e-mail either already secured their account with a unique login and password or they have never corresponded with the contact center.

A generic account has already been established for all Airmen who have not yet interacted with the contact center, since they may be required to do so in the future as part of the Personnel Service Delivery Transformation.

Members can personalize their generic account by visiting the AFPC Public Web site at <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil> and following these instructions:

— Click the 'My Stuff' gray tab on the front page underneath the search box

— Type their generic user ID and click the 'Email Me My Password' button

— The generic user ID is the member's last name and last four digits of their social security number (ex. smith1234).

— Once the system e-mails the password the member can use their generic user ID and password to login and personalize their account by creating a unique user ID and password.

Establishing the 'My Stuff' account will help Airmen track any requests, applications or questions they have sent to the Air Force Contact Center.

For questions or issues regarding establishing a 'My Stuff' account call the contact center at (800) 616-3775, option 1, option 1, option 2; commercial (210) 565-5000; or DSN 665-5000.

(Courtesy Air Force Personnel Center)

Air Force implements BRAC decisions

By Master Sgt.
Mitch Gettle
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — This Base Realignment and Closure Commission affects the Air Force like no other, given the war on terrorism, the Quadrennial Defense Review, Air Force transformation and force structure changes, said William C. Anderson.

The assistant secretary of the Air Force for installations, environment and logistics explained the Air Force BRAC implementation procedures to the House Appropriations subcommittee on military quality of life and veterans affairs April 6.

"Given these many external influences, and as good stewards of taxpayer dollars, we can no longer look at BRAC implementation as an isolated activity," he said. "We must, rather, orchestrate BRAC implementation activities in concert with the new Air Force mission beddowns, legacy weapon system and force draw-downs, and future emerging missions."

As the Air Force assesses how actions impact BRAC, it will continue to adjust the requirements needed to meet the approved BRAC recommendations, Mr. Anderson said.

The Air Force formed a BRAC program management office Oct. 1 as a focal point to direct implementation activities. The Air Force started developing its implementation schedule and is working closely with the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve to refine the schedule, Mr. Anderson said.

The Department of Defense must initiate all closures and realignments within two years of the date the president approved the BRAC recommendations — Sept. 15, 2005. The DOD must complete all closures and realignments within six years of the date.

The Air Force faces new challenges with this BRAC round. The transformational nature of some recommendations and the level of joint activities and operations formed under this BRAC pose new implementation issues, he said.

One example of transfor-

mational joint activity is the concept of joint basing. This concept requires some adjoining DOD installations or installations in close proximity to share infrastructure support and management activities. Of the 12 recommended joint bases, 10 involve Air Force installations, with the Air Force designated as the lead service for six.

The DOD is developing policy to implement the joint base concept by Oct. 1, 2007.

"To implement these joint recommendations, and to best realize its full intent and operational payoff, we are working hand in hand with our sister services, affected agencies and the office of the secretary of defense," Mr. Anderson said.

Another challenge for the Air Force is BRAC's recommendation on Cannon Air Force Base, N.M. The BRAC recommendation calls for the establishment of an enclave following the transfer of the current flying mission. That enclave is to remain open until Dec. 31, 2009, while DOD looks for a new mission for Cannon. If a new mission is not found by that date, the base will close.

The intent of the Air Force is to explore all options for a mission for Cannon as soon as possible, said Mr. Anderson.

"The Air Force has aggressively pursued the commission's direction to seek potential re-use, and expects to provide the secretary of defense with its findings and recommendations this summer," he said.



Photo by Senior Airman Jason P. Robertson

Ready, aim...

Shell casings fly as Staff Sgt. Christopher Oshana fires an M-9 handgun during proficiency training at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., March 27. Oshana is an Air Force combat arms training and maintenance instructor with the 6th Security Forces Squadron at MacDill. The instructors are required to fire 500 rounds a year on every small arms weapon they teach in order to stay proficient as instructors.

AD

2X4

2X2

2X3.5

1X2

A tradition of XLenc

Throughout 2004 and 2005, Team XL has demonstrated a pattern that exemplifies the Air Force core value of "Excellence in all we do."

Some of the many awards and recognitions received by both units and individuals here:

47th Medical Group

First Lt. Karen F. Negran, 47th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron -Air Education and Training Command Aerospace Physiology, Company Grade Officer; AETC, AFA Hoyt S. Vandenberg Award, Outstanding Contribution in the Aerospace Education Field

Capt. Maria E. Perez-Johnson, 47th ADS-AETC, Medical Services, Company Grade Category

"Winning these awards has been outstanding for the ADS. It just goes to show that this base is an environment that helps folks excel. Laughlin develops great people and gives them the opportunity to live up to their full potential."

-Lt. Col. Roy Dileo, 47th ADS commander

47th Flying Training Wing staff agencies

47th FTW Public Affairs office -AETC Public Affairs, Director's Excellence Award in Internal Information for 2004 and 2005

Capt. Paula Kurtz, 47th FTW/PA -AETC and Air Force Public Affairs, News Article 2005

Senior Airman Sara Duman, 47th FTW/Command Post -AETC Command Post Airman of the Year

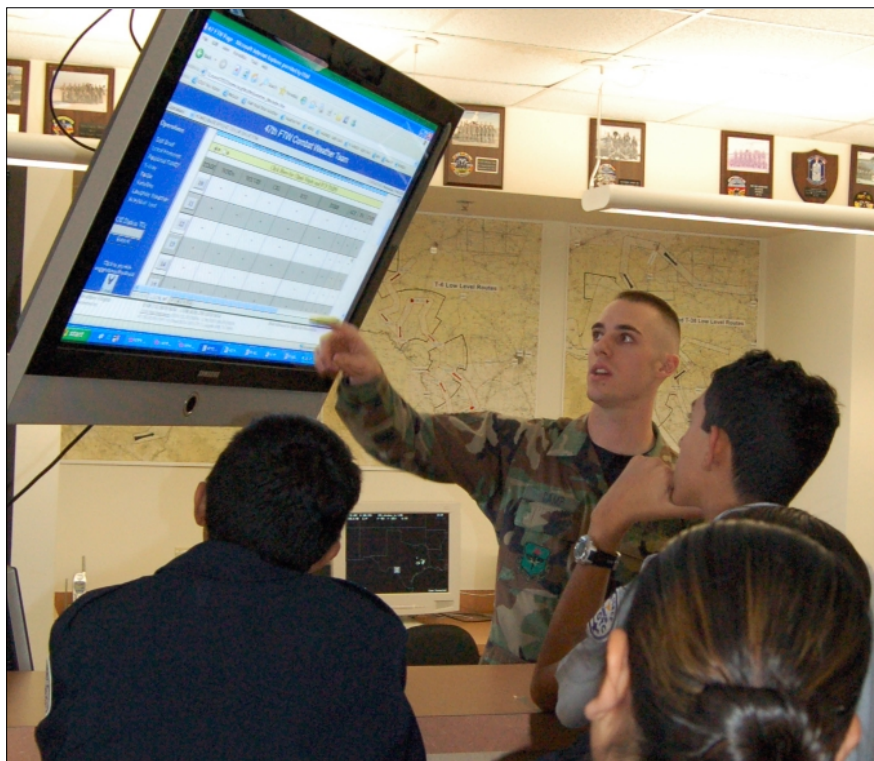
"It's an honor to be recognized for the hard work I've done, and I'm proud to represent AETC Command Posts."

Senior Airman Sara Duman 47th FTW/CP

47th Mission Support Group

47th Mission Support Squadron/Manpower Organization Flight -AETC Small Manpower and Organization Flight/Office of the Year 2005

47th MSS/MOF - AETC



Senior Airman Jonathan Camp, 47th Operations Support Squadron weather flight, speaks to a group of Del Rio High School Junior ROTC students. The flight won the Grimes-Williams Award for best combat weather team in AETC for 2005.



Then Airman 1st Class Olufemi Owolabi, 47th Flying Training Wing public affairs, shoots a photo for the Border Eagle. Public affairs won the AETC Director's Excellence Award in Internal Information for 2004 and 2005.

Small Manpower and Organization Flight/Office of the Year 2004

Master Sgt. Thomas H. Mayo, 47th MSS/MOF-AETC Installation Level Manpower and Organization Senior NCO of the Year 2004 and 2005

Master Sgt. David Drotts, 47th MSS/MOF-AETC Installation Level Manpower and Organization NCO of the Year, 2004 Air Force-level runner up

Esther Gomez, 47th MSS/Civilian Employment -Outstanding DoD Hispanic Civilian Award, National Association of Hispanic Federal Executives 2004

Joni Jordan, 47th MSS/DPC - Air Force Distinguished

EEO Award, Black Employment Program 2004

Senior Airman Blake Ennis, 47th CS/Network Control Center -AETC Communications and Information 3C Airman of the Year 2005

"This has been the biggest honor of my career so far. The judges for this award are looking at your expertise based on their own job knowledge, so winning lets me know that I am one of the best people in the Air Force at my job."

-Senior Airman Blake Ennis, 47th CS

47th Communications Squadron-AETC Maintenance Effectiveness Award 2005, Communications-Electronics Maintenance

A T

e in 2004-2005



t Lt. Karen Negran, 47th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron, onstrates proper ejection seat procedures. Lieutenant ran won two AETC Aerospace Physiology awards.



38C Talon from the 87th Flying Training Squadron takes off from Laughlin.

Master Sgt. Jesse Atkinson, 47th CS/Land Mobile Radio section -AETC Communications and Information Spectrum Manager of the Year, 2004

Fredrick Ervin 47th CS/Information Assurance Flight -AETC Communications and Information- National Level Information Systems Security Awards Professional of the Year 2005

47th Contracting Squadron -Honorable Mention - AETC Outstanding Small Contracting Unit, 2005

47th Services Division - AETC and Air Force Services Inns of Excellence Award; Small Lodging Facility

47th Civil Engineer Squadron

Fitness Center and Health and Wellness Center - AETC level winner Air Force Design Awards Program

Heritage Park, Plaza, and Amphitheater -AETC level winner Air Force Design



The Laughlin fire department practices hangar firefighting and extrication procedures.

Awards Program

47th Operations Group

Master Sgt. Robert Bone, 47th Operations Support Squadron/Flight Records - AETC Aviation Resource Management Senior NCO of the Year 2005

47th OSS- AETC Top Operations/Training Squadron 2005; Only OSS in recorded history to receive an "Outstanding" during Headquarters ORI 2005; Verne Orr Award 2005

Maj. Scott Evans & 2nd Lt. Chris Carr -"AETC Well Done" Awards

Lee Inabinet, 47th OSS- AETC Civilian Controller of the Year 2005

Jerold Smith, 47th OSS -TERPS AETC of the Year 2004

47th OSS Weather-Grimes-Williams Award; Best combat weather team in AETC 2005

"We are honored to be recognized, but we were really just doing our jobs."

-Master Sgt. Sandy Ableiter, 47th OSS/Weather

Master Sgt. Sandy Ableiter, 47th OSS/Weather -Gardner Award, Top AETC Weather Senior NCO of the Year 2005

47th Maintenance Directorate

Mark Hewitt, Neal Mihelich, Delia Villarreal, Tony Evans, 47th FTW Maintenance Directorate- 2005 Air Force Productivity Excellence Award

"It's a tremendous honor to have been selected for this award, and it reflects greatly on the work we do here. The 47th Maintenance Directorate works incredibly hard to ensure the mission goals at Laughlin are met every day, and I believe we have come through with flying colors"

-Mark Hewitt, 47th Maintenance Directorate

Stop, check tires for ‘foreign objects, debris’

By Senior Airman
Eric Donner
48th Fighter Wing
public affairs

ROYAL AIR FORCE LAKENHEATH, England — “Foreign objects and debris” checkpoints are important to helping win the war against foreign object damage.

FOD is anything that does not belong on the flightline. It could be as small as a pebble or as large as a steel pipe.

Several “weapons” are used to help in the battle against FOD. One of the most visible is the street sweeper often seen circling and zigzagging on the flightline.

Airmen from the 48th Civil Engineer Squadron also walk the flightline, cleaning up and looking for debris.

“We clear all areas that aircraft may use,” said Staff Sgt. Tony Conley, 48th CES. “We are checking the flightline all day long and sometimes into the early evening.”

These Airmen have picked up just about every thing imaginable.

“We find everything out here — radios, headphones, nuts, bolts and even flightline badges,” Sergeant Conley said.

The engines on the fighter aircraft are like vacuums that suck up everything. Even the smallest pebble could damage an aircraft’s engine, which could cost millions of dollars to repair, Sergeant Conley said.

“It’s everyone’s job to help prevent FOD on the active taxiways and runway,” said Airman 1st Class Michael



The Golden Bolt awaits discovery on the flightline at Royal Air Force Lakenheath, England. Senior aircraft maintainers place the bolt somewhere on the flightline once each month, and the finder wins prizes. The program helps improve awareness of foreign object and debris damage on the flightline.

Haugen, 48th Operation Support Squadron.

Vehicles that drive on the taxiway aren’t the only way FOD ends up on the flightline.

Taxiing aircraft cause material to scatter. Mother Nature also adds to the problem.

“Whether it’s a rock, bolt,

piece of safety wire or a tool, it takes only milliseconds to cause millions in damage and possibly losing an aircraft,” said Master Sgt. Robert Lamb, 48th Fighter Wing FOD prevention manager.

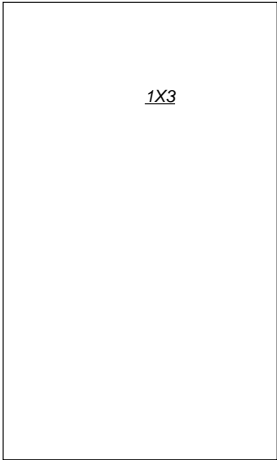
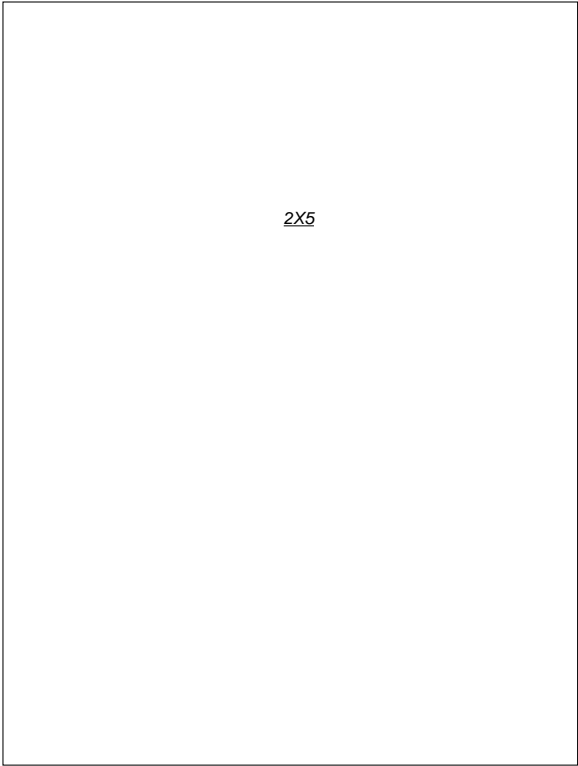
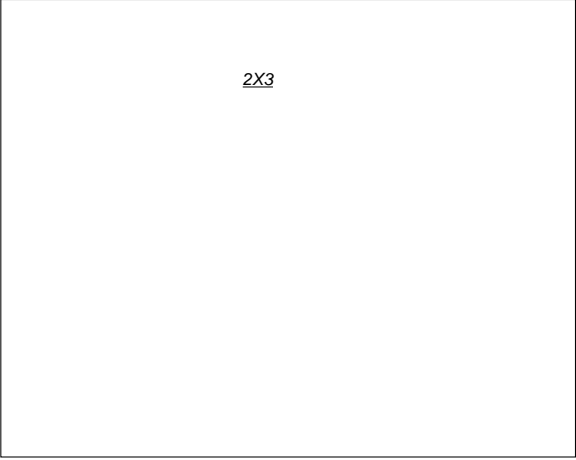
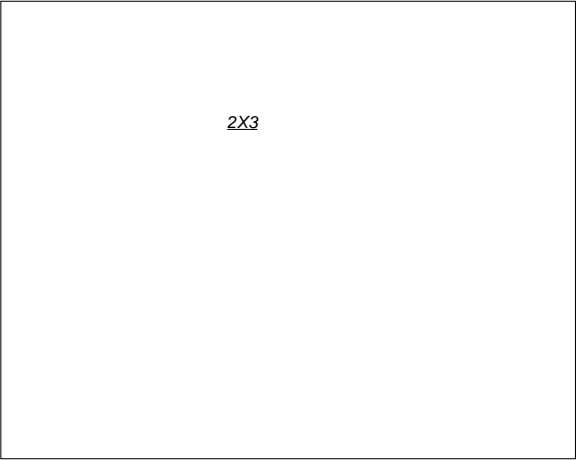
“In the global war on terrorism, foreign objects are more likely to bring down an

aircraft than a terrorist. We can control the foreign object part of it. The F-15 (Eagle) is a high-powered fighting machine and its absolute worst enemy is foreign objects,” Sergeant Lamb said.

“My vision is a total team RAF Lakenheath effort to deliver the most comprehensive and aggressive FOD prevention program in the Air Force,” said Sergeant Lamb.

One way they do this at Lakenheath is through the Golden Bolt program. Senior aircraft maintainers place the bolt somewhere on the flightline once each month. If found, the golden bolt means rewards. Golden Bolt winners receives two meal coupons from the Army and Air Force Exchange Service, two movie passes and a one-day pass. The quarterly FOD finder receives a three-day pass, \$25 gift card and a plaque.

“Although we are doing better than many other bases, we still need to keep our attention high and take no prisoners in our fight against FOD,” Sergeant Lamb said. “Not only does the money that goes into fixing the damage eventually come out of our pockets as Airmen, a misplaced or unnoticed foreign object may take a life. Make it a personal fight against FOD. Pick it up,” Sergeant Lamb said.



Senior Airman Renato DeJesus 47th Services Division



Photo by Senior Airman Olufemi Owolabi

"He always goes above and beyond. You never have to tell him to take care of anything twice. He's an 'XLent' Airman," Staff Sgt. Sebastian Aboki, 47th Services Division.



Hometown:
San Francisco, Calif.
Family: Wife, Grace, and daughter
Time at Laughlin:
Two years and 9 months
Time in military service:
Three years
Bad habit:
Sleeping too much!
Greatest accomplishment: Being a good husband to my wife and a good father to my daughter even when we're thousands of miles apart
Hobbies: Playing and watching sports
Favorite movie: Nothing in particular, but I love watching comedy movies.
If you could spend one hour with any person, who would it be and why?: My family in the Philippines

5X5.25



Laughlin Salutes

SUPT Class 06-07 awards

Outstanding Officer of Class 06-07:
Capt. Dennis Abramowicz

AETC Commander's Trophy, airlift/tanker track:
2nd Lt. Christopher Thackaberry

AETC Commander's Trophy, fighter/bomber track:
2nd Lt. Dustin McCauley

Daedalian award:
Capt. Norbert King II

Academic award, airlift/tanker track:
2nd Lt. Jamie Szmodis

Academic award, fighter/bomber track:
2nd Lt. Jonathan Barber

Flying training award, fighter/bomber track:
2nd Lt. Donald Davenport

Flying training award, airlift/tanker track:
2nd Lt. Benjamin Wheelan

Fighter/bomber Distinguished Graduate:
2nd Lt. Dustin McCauley

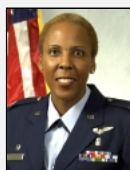
Airlift/tanker Distinguished Graduates:
Capt. Dennis Abramowicz
2nd Lt. Christopher Thackaberry

Outstanding 2nd Lieutenant Award:
2nd Lt. Monessa Catuncan

Citizenship award:
2nd Lt. Paul Curtiss

2X2

2X3



What's up Doc?

By Col. Laura Torres-Reyes
47th Medical Group
commander

Question: I am the wife of a pilot, and am due to have my annual mammogram and pelvic/PAP exam done. I have a gynecologist I like in San Antonio and would like to go there if possible. Do I need a referral from one of your clinic doctors, and/or an authorization from TRICARE to have the procedures done with a civilian provider?

Answer: No, you do not. Fortunately, as a TRICARE Prime beneficiary you do not require a refer-

ral or authorization from TRICARE to receive routine prevention services like an annual mammogram and pelvic/PAP exam. Choosing to go to a civilian provider without first going to your Laughlin Primary Care Manager is called self-referral and is only allowed for the initial prevention exam. The first step is to make sure the provider is a "network provider" who accepts TRICARE.

If you would like to obtain information to find out which local and San Antonio providers belong to the TRICARE network, simply stop by the TRICARE Service Center located in the clinic. It is important for you to ensure your PCM is aware of your visit so that he/she may follow up with the results. You can either ask the civilian provider to fax the results directly to your PCM, or you can obtain a copy of your results and bring them with you at your next PCM visit. Keep in mind that you are only authorized to receive care for the one-time prevention

screening exam. Any additional procedures performed by the civilian provider will require an authorization from your PCM.

If you elect to receive any additional treatment beyond the screening exam, you will need to use the Point-of-Service option and could be responsible for 50 percent of the bill after meeting the annual deductible.

Finally, if you choose a non-network provider you will automatically be billed as a Point-of-Service option. No matter which option you choose, PCM referral or self-referral, we are here to assist you in your choice. Please stop by our TRICARE Service Center or Referral Management Center and our friendly staff can assist you in making the decision that is best for you.

Thanks for your question!

You may contact Colonel Torres-Reyes by e-mail at laura.torres-reyes@laughlin.af.mil if you have a What's Up Doc? question.

Sportslines

Toughest Squadron PT

The base exercise physiologist wants to know which Laughlin squadron has the toughest physical fitness training session. Has your group PT session been AARP certified or does your PT leader like to relax in the front leaning rest? We'll soon find out because the Health and Wellness Center's Bill Goins is offering to visit PT sessions and see which squadron is truly "fit to fight."

Mr Goins, the base exercise physiologist and fitness program manager, has degrees in both Exercise Science & Physiology and Sports Management. He has more than 12 years experience conducting clinical exercise testing and creating personalized fitness programs.

The criteria for the coveted "Toughest Squadron" title include:

- maximum squadron member participation.

- a well-rounded workout, emphasizing cardio, strength and flexibility.

- organization and punctuality.

- safety and effectiveness for every fitness level.

- creativity and leadership making the workout both fun and challenging.

To compete in the toughest squadron contest, e-mail Mr. Goins, william.goins@laughlin.af.mil, or call him, 298-6464. Send your PT schedule for the month of May to him and get ready to get fit!

Volleyball standings

(As of Tuesday)

Eastern Conference

Team	W	L
CES2	4	0
MSS	1	4
MDG	2	3
CCS	1	5
SFS	4	3
LCSAM	3	2

Western Conference

Team	W	L
84th/85th	4	0
86th	4	1
CES1	3	3
87th	1	3
OSS	0	5

86th suppresses 87th, 2-1, in volleyball

By Senior Airman
Olufemi Owolabi
Editor

The 86th Flying Training Squadron defeated the 87th FTS overall during a three-round intramural volleyball match at the Losano Fitness Center Tuesday.

The 87th started strong, fought hard and was able to make the big plays when they counted most. Both teams traded off points at the beginning of the first game, but the 87th squad eventually pulled out a three-point lead ahead of the 86th.

In the second game, the 86th team suppressed its counterpart. The 86th won the game with its largest lead of the night at 25-18.

The third game was no different from the second, except the 86th came on stronger. They served first and took an early 5-1 lead. The game played out even tougher than the second. There was not a time during the game when the 87th tied up or led the 86th squad. The 86th was always a point or more ahead. Even a time out taken by the 87th a few minutes after the game began proved futile.

After the break, the 87th came close, 6-7, with powerful offensive plays, but momentum was in the 86th's favor.

The 86th forged ahead and never looked back. They gathered seven more points while the 87th struggled to score three.

The 86th defense finally sealed the win with a blocked 87th spike. The 86th walked away with a 15-9 victory in the third game, giving them the match at 2-1.

Also, a game played earlier between the CES1 team and the OSS team ended with a two-time lead, 26-24 and 25-21, in favor of CES1.

LCSAM also defeated the 47th Security Forces team with a two-time lead, 25-23, 25-15.



Photo by Senior Airman Olufemi Owolabi

(Right) Members of the 86th FTS team block the ball after a spike from the 87th squad during a three-round intramural volleyball match at the Losano Fitness Center gym Tuesday. The 86th defeated the 87th overall, 22-25, 25-18 and 15-19.